

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Applicant confirms the election of the invention of group II, claims 22-26 and 28-37.

Although the cross reference to pending applications as presented in the Preliminary Amendment is believed to have been correct when filed, that paragraph has been amended to identify subsequently issued US Patent 6,730,246.

A substitute Abstract referring to the apparatus that is the subject of the elected claims has been included.

Substitute paragraphs on page 17 and page 22 have been included to correct the noted informalities due to typographical errors.

Applicant's file copy appears to show that the two full paragraphs on page 5 do not constitute new matter and were included in the parent application as originally filed. However, since these paragraphs are included in the Summary of Invention, and merely restate matter originally disclosed elsewhere in the Specification as originally filed, these paragraphs have been deleted by amendment in order to expedite consideration of this application.

The claim objection to claim 23 is not understood, since claim 23 is believed to further limit the subject matter of claim 22 on which it depends. Claim 22 does not explicitly state that the first mold section is positioned in the flask. Applicant would, however, be willing to delete claim 23 if this objection is not withdrawn.

The objection to the drawings as not including reference numeral 169 has been addressed by substituting a new paragraph beginning on page 16, line 29, to correct the typographical error by replacing "169" with the correct reference numeral "160". A corrected drawing showing reference numeral 48 was included in the Preliminary Amendment included at the time this divisional application was filed. However, a new copy of this drawing correction, along with an explanatory page, is included as an appendix to this response.

Claim 28 has been amended in an effort to address the claim rejection under 35 USC 112. The grammatical awkwardness in Claim 28 is perhaps attributable to the first

and second mold sections and first and second flask sections, which refer to four different elements.

The rejection of claims 22-26 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Pollock is believed to have been improper, since Pollock does not disclose first and second sloping surfaces on the two flexible mold sections as claimed. However, in an effort to expedite consideration of this application, claim 22 has been amended to recite that each of these sloping surfaces are formed upon solidification of an initially fluent material and extend away from the mold cavity. The sloping surfaces are conformable to each other and mutually registerable for alignment of the two mold sections. Pollock teaches that the two mold sections are formed by *cutting the initially one piece mold section* to remove the master. Cutting a flexible material can result in damage to the mold halves and the interface between the two halves may no longer be accurately alignable. After cutting and removal of the master, the two shells must then be clamped together to reunite the mold halves as shown in Figures 14H through 14J so that a new denture can be fabricated. Alignment is thus dependent upon the mold shells and the clamp and the cut halves cannot be relied upon to recreate a properly formed mold cavity. This problem is especially significant when the mold is used only after the lapse of a significant time, because the material forming the mold halves can contract and expand at a different rate than the shell so that it will be difficult to reliably recreate a duplicate denture have the requisite dimensional identity.

Claim 28 has been similarly amended, although claim 28 does not require that these surfaces be sloping.

The Bakanowski reference does not address this shortcoming since this reference is directed to the use of a gypsum investment material to form the mold. Dentures are then formed using a lost wax technique. Furthermore, neither Pollock or Bakanowski disclose a flask member that can be used as a storage container for the mold sections.

With respect to claim 29, the second opening 34a of Bakanowski comprises a vent suitable for use when additional investment material is injected through the first opening 34. See Col. 6, lines 4-7. Investment material is first introduced into cavity 22 when the flask members are separated and the opening 34a is plugged.

The rejection of claim 36 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Pollock in view of Cialone is not understood. Cialone only discloses the use of a sift mold making material 9 into which the user's permanent denture is positioned to form an impression of the permanent denture. This impression material is then used to form a cavity in which a new or temporary denture can be formed, admittedly after modification to account for damage to the original denture. Neither Pollock nor Cialone teach or suggest the inclusion of a material, which will form a solid temporary filler, which is then used in the subsequent fabrication of mold sections, and which in turn will then be used to fabricate a duplicate denture. It should be noted that claim 36 has been amended so that the filler material can be either initially solid but malleable or can solidify after deposit.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and issuance of a notice of allowance in response to this amendment is courteously solicited.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Pitts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Pitts" clearly distinguishable.

Robert W. Pitts
Registration No. 27372
Attorney for Applicants
Phone: 336-760-9565

FIG 10

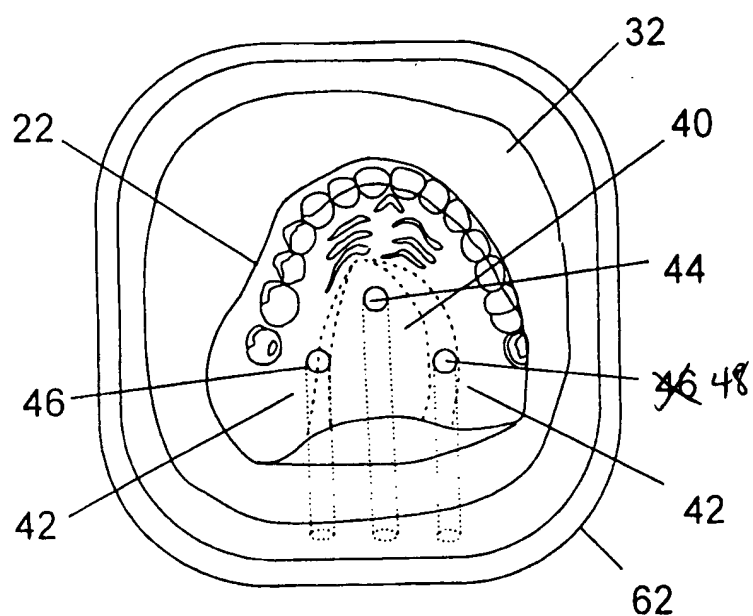
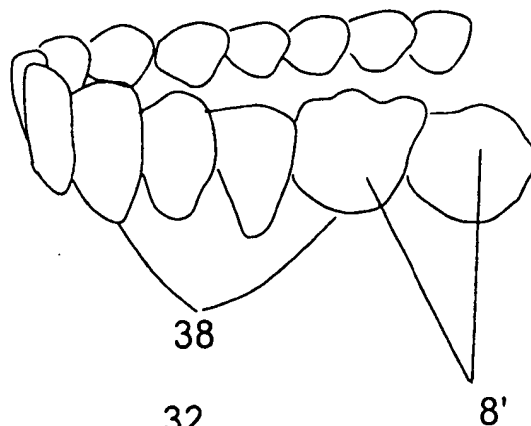


FIG 11

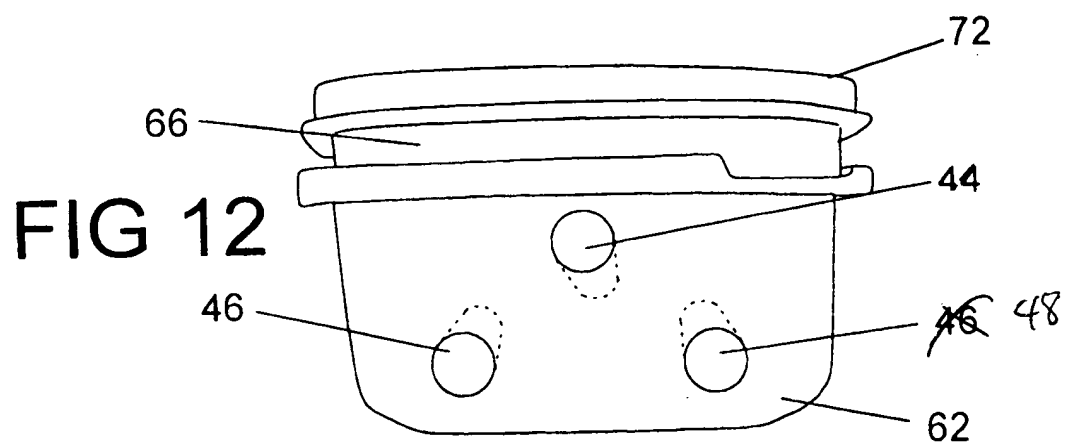


FIG 12